

reality, another piece of legislation costing more than \$1 trillion, that builds more debt than it builds bridges or roads.

When the bill passed the House, inflation was already on the rise, and gas prices had increased 50 percent over the prior year. Instead of addressing these issues before they got out of hand, Democrats have used their political capital in an attempt to reshape the very fabric of our society and take another giant leap toward the United States becoming another socialist country. As a consequence, the cost of everything has continued to rise while inflation rages on with reckless abandon and no end in sight.

Unfortunately, the madness did not end there. Despite already passing two bills with price tags over a trillion dollars, President Biden and congressional Democrats saved the worst of all for last—their build back broke bill that was thankfully defeated in the Senate but would have added a staggering \$5 trillion in new spending.

In just 1 year, House Democrats passed legislation equating to almost \$10 trillion which, unbelievably, amounts to a full one-third of the current U.S. national debt. They acted like kids in a candy store with their parents' credit card. But in reality, their actions are even worse than that because in this case they are actually using their children's and grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's credit card, and even though they have more than maxed out the credit card, new purchases are never declined.

Economists warned of an impending recession as we got closer to reaching the debt limit last year. America's fiscal house was flooding, and the Democrats chose to raise the roof rather than stop the flooding. On a party-line vote, Democrats voted to impose the largest nominal increase in the debt cap in the history of our country, and in doing so, once again denied all reality that their out-of-control spending would directly result in inflation, the steep and cruel tax levied on all Americans.

You would think that after passing so many spending bills in the trillions of dollars that they would be able to pass a standard government funding bill, but you would be wrong. Congressional Democrats and President Biden have not achieved this once; in fact, we are already almost halfway through the current fiscal year and, in an ironic twist, are still operating under the spending priorities of President Donald Trump; that is, until the House votes on the Democratic appropriations bills tomorrow, which we have yet to read and will likely cost taxpayers additional trillions of dollars.

Trillions of dollars spent, and what do we have to show for it? Higher prices on everything, real wages for all Americans declining, and an economy dependent on government expenditures. We are getting exactly what President Biden and congressional

Democrats want: Socialism. These are not the ideals on which America was founded. Every step they take diminishes capitalism, the engine of our economy and the engine of our standard of living, and it also diminishes freedom, the engine of our national soul. But regrettably, that is President Biden's America.

The fact of the matter is that President Biden's administration will stop at nothing to satisfy their far-left base.

□ 1130

#### SELLING AMERICA A BILL OF GOODS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the ability to address a few of my colleagues here on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would note, though, here we are again, we are sitting here at the precipice of the government funding running out. And I hear all my colleagues talking about how great it is: We are going to come up with some great, big omnibus bill. And I am hearing that from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Nobody in America wants us to plus-up more spending irresponsibly.

Nobody in America wants us to say, Oh, let's pat ourselves on the back now. Because some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are saying, Well, you know what? It is time now to ban Russian oil.

It is not good enough to ban Russian oil if we are not going to open up American oil and gas. All we are going to do is provide more money to Venezuela, more money to Saudi, more money to Iran. But yet, that is being touted as a victory.

And some of my colleagues on this side of the aisle are saying, Okay, good. Oh, this is great. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they don't want any oil. They don't mind your gas being \$4, \$7, \$10 a gallon.

Don't get played. But my colleagues on this side of the aisle are about to get played, and everybody back home is saying: What are you going to do to stop vaccine mandates? Nothing. What are you going to do to secure the border?

And my colleagues on this side of the aisle are going to say, Oh, don't worry. We are going to give you more money for ICE, more money for Border Patrol. But you know what that does? It makes it worse, because you are funding the processing of people at our border, because that is all Border Patrol and ICE are doing.

But my colleagues on this side of the aisle are going to say, Oh, look at us. We did something for border security. It ain't true. It is going to make it worse. And anybody who has been to the border, anybody who talks to Border Patrol, anybody who talks to ICE, knows that is true.

We are not going to get a vaccine mandate, we are not going to get a secure border, and we are not going to get more oil and gas being produced in America.

And then we are going to say, Great, let's have a vote and send more lethal aid to Ukraine. And we are not even going to have a debate down here about what we are doing in funding Ukraine, with Putin rolling over Ukraine? All we are doing is backroom dealmaking, waiting for somebody to drop a bill on the floor of the House, and then come down and vote "yes" or "no."

That is a disgusting display by both sides of this body. We ought to have a full and open debate on the floor of the House about what we are doing in sending arms to Ukraine; how much we are spending; what it means for our involvement; what it means for NATO; what it means for stopping Putin.

And stop spending money we don't have. Stop funding tyranny. Stop forcing Americans to get a job or lose their job. Stop leaving the border wide open. And stop selling the American people a bill of goods. And I am looking directly at my party when I say that.

#### PUTIN'S WAR ATROCITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the murderous Putin's war on Ukraine is recognized worldwide as criminal.

I am grateful that America and our NATO allies have unified to support Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and the Ukrainian people. I have faith in the Russian people, who I have met on numerous visits across Russia, that they will reject Putin's war atrocities.

Russia is a nation of world-significant art, music, architecture, literature, and can change. And that is why I am introducing a bill to encourage Russian military defectors, true Russian patriots, with immediate refugee status in America with up to \$100,000 for Russian military equipment transferred to Ukraine. Putin betrays the troops to death for his purpose of oil, money, power.

Additionally, I will introduce a bill for a bust of President Volodymyr Zelensky to be placed in the U.S. Capitol, as is the bust of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Churchill was the wartime leader of World War II, and Volodymyr Zelensky is the wartime leader in Putin's war.

On Saturday, I was very grateful to be part of the Zoom address by President Zelensky to the U.S. Congress. And today, he is addressing the British Parliament.

In December, I visited Kyiv, and I was so inspired by the people of Ukraine. It is a modern, free-market democracy with extraordinary success for its citizens of eight-lane boulevards with modern SUVs.

Today, Putin's war is conducting mass murder, defaming the people of Russia as innocent women and children are being murdered.

God bless Ukraine. God save Ukraine. Long live Volodymyr Zelensky.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HOULAHAN) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, will now be the time when You reveal Your favor? Answer those who cry to You, O compassionate Lord, for Your blessing this day.

Is today the day of salvation? Help those, Almighty God, who find themselves in unspeakable danger and desperately in need of Your saving grace at this very moment.

Will You allow release for the prisoners of tyranny?

Will You shine light on those who have been enveloped in the darkness of destruction?

Have pity on those who suddenly find themselves physically and spiritually hungry and thirsty.

Have pity on them and lead them by springs of living water. Refresh them again with hope found only in You. Do not let them be struck down, they who endure the scorching wind of war and the heat of battle.

Turn impassable mountains into an open road and raise up Your highways above any obstruction of passage. May those who seek refuge find shelter in You and those who suffer brought safely toward Your haven of compassion.

We call upon Your strong and sovereign name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 55. An act to amend section 249 of title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a hate crime act.

H.R. 2545. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2089. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, and for other purposes.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF PRESIDING ELDER ALONZO MIDDLETON

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and mentor who was a man of great faith. Elder Alonzo Middleton passed away on March 1, 2022, at the age of 91.

Elder Middleton used his longevity in great service to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a proud lifetime member of my home congregation, Morris Brown AME Church, in Charleston, South Carolina, and was a graduate of Allen University, where he later served on the board of trustees.

Elder Middleton was a pastor and presiding elder in the Seventh Episcopal District, which encompasses the entire State of South Carolina. He served as a delegate to multiple quadrennials of the AME Church's general conference and on its general board.

He retired from active service as presiding elder of the Mount Pleasant District, one of the largest in the AME Church.

One of his lasting accomplishments was engineering the merger of three small Charleston congregations to create a single church renamed the Great-er Middleton Chapel AME Church.

Elder Middleton was a mentor for many generations of AME clergy and laymen. He will be sorely missed.

#### THIRTEEN KILLED IN KABUL

(Mrs. BOEBERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today having received a message from the mother of a young American hero, Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, who tragically and unnecessarily lost his life during the Biden administration's catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

She encouraged me to publicly share her message, which in part read:

Mrs. Boebert, I am the mother of Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, one of the 13 killed in Kabul. I wish more people had the backbone that you have. When I heard you say, "13 of them," my heart dropped, my eyes filled with tears, and I was so happy to hear about our 13 kids at that very moment. You have no idea how much that meant to me.

We have been lied to over and over, and then we watch this administration act as if it never happened. The pain of losing my son is unbearable.

Just know when I heard you say, "13 of them," it gave me hope to help us get some type of justice about what this corrupt administration has done and is still doing. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say it was impossible to ignore our 13 servicemembers, and they will continue to be honored and remembered, despite their Commander in Chief intending to ignore them.

#### HONORING "HARMONICA PETE" DUPRE

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the extraordinary life of Rochester's own Pete DuPre, fondly known as Harmonica Pete, who died peacefully at the venerable age of 98 earlier this year.

Harmonica Pete served our Nation as a combat medic during World War II. When he returned home, he began volunteering with the Greatest Generation Foundation, playing the harmonica for veterans groups.

His heartfelt rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" onboard the USS *Arizona* and his performance before the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team in 2019 turned Harmonica Pete into a worldwide viral sensation.

He chose to heal our Nation's veterans through music and brought joy to all who knew him.

Pete once said, "History books fade, and so do we," but his memory will never fade from our hearts and minds.

May you rest in peace, Harmonica Pete.